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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 /058 W
----------057520 080223Z /66
R 071600Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4511

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1295

FOR AF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, GV
SUBJECT: SEKOU TOURE'S INTEREST IN VISITING US

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1129, (B) CONAKRY 1281, (C) CONAKRY 1293

1. SUMMARY: GOG HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN VISIT BY PRESIDENT

TOURE TO THE US. RECOGNIZING MULTITUDE OF FACTORS THAT MUST BE WEIGHED IN SUCH A CASE, EMBASSY INVITES DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO A NUMBER OF POSITIVE ELEMENTS WE BELIEVE MERIT CONSIDERATION. GUINEAN DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FAVORABLE DURING PAST YEAR; TOURE'S RECENT TRAVELS HAVE HAD CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT ON HIS THINKING, DRAWING HIM AWAY FROM SOVIET INFLUENCE; US VISIT SHOULD REINFORCE THIS; VISIT WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AFRICAN PROBLEMS WITH HIM AND TO VOICE RECOGNITION OF GUINEAN PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESS FOR MORE. BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE AVOID EXCESSIVE DEMANDS FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC AID. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. AT RECEPTION JUNE 29, ALI BANGOURA, CHIEF OF

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PROTOCOL AT THE PRESIDENCY, APPROACHED AMBASSADOR AND ASKED WHEN USG PLANNED TO INVITE PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE TO VISIT THE US. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED NONCOMMITTALLY.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE SOURCE AND TONE OF THIS QUERY, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS MADE WITH KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL

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OF SEKOU TOURE AND REFLECTS GENUINE DESIRE
ON HIS PART TO VISIT THE US. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE
PROBLEMS INVOLVED, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POSITIVE
FACTORS THAT APPEAR TO MERIT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION
IN CONNECTION WITH A POSSIBLE VISIT BY TOURE TO THE
STATES.

A. AS INDICATED REF A, TREND OF GOG POLICIES
AND ACTIONS DURING PAST YEAR HAS BEEN STRONGLY
POSITIVE FROM US POINT OF VIEW, VIZ. MARKED AND
CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

B. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH
SENEGAL/IVORY COAST, RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND
SECURITY CONTROLS INTERNALLY, AMNESTY OF GUINEAN
"EXILES" AND RETURN OF INCREASING NUMBERS OF THEM
FROM ABROAD, IMPROVEMENT IN CONSUMER GOODS SUPPLY
AND GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR GUINEAN POPULATION,
INDICATION OF MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DESIRE FOR INVESTMENT BY
US STEEL, REYNOLDS METAL, DIAMOND DISTRIBUTORS
INTERNATIONAL(DDI) AND OTHER US FIRMS, INTEREST IN
INCREASED EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER EXCHANGES WITH US AND
IN US AGRICULTURAL METHODS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY,
SUSPENSION OF TU-95 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS, AND
APPARENT DESIRE TO PURSUE MORE GENUINE NONALIGNMENT.
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B. SEKOU TOURE'S EXTENSIVE RECENT TRAVELS HAVE
ENCOURAGED A MORE MODERATE AND BALANCE OUTLOOK AS
HE SEEKS PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS
(WITH EXCEPTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA) AND REACHES FOR
STATUS AS RESPONSIBLE ELDEP STATESMAN. AFTER VISITS
TO EIGHT AFRICAN STATES, TOURE MOVED OUT TO VISIT
SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF STATES. IT IS APPARENT
THAT THE MOMENTUM OF HIS TRAVELS AND EXPOSURE ABROAD
IS PROPELLING HIM IN CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTIONS, AND HE
IS NOW HEADING FOR MAJOR POWERS. GUINEA RADIO
ANNOUNCED JULY 5 THAT HE IS TO VISIT CHINA AND INDIA.

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----------057769 080222Z /66
R 071600Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4512

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 1295

C. IN ABOVE CONTEXT, A VISIT TO THE US IS
LOGICAL AND DESIRABLE EXTENSION OF HIS TRAVELS WHICH
SHOULD FURTHER ENCOURAGE ATTITUDES FAVORABLE TO US.
AT PRESENTAION OF AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS IN
DECEMBER, PRESIDENT TOURE SPOKE OF HIS WARM RECOLLECTION
OF VISIT TO THE US IN 1962 AND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
KENNEDY. A VISIT AND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER
NOW, 16 YEARS LATER, WOULD REINFORCE HIS POSITIVE
IMPRESSIONS OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BROADER CONTACTS
WITH THE US AND US SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGERIAL
SKILLS. IT SHOULD HELP CONFIRM HIM IN HIS CONSTRUCTIVE
DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT AND TAKE SOME OF THE STING OUT
OF USG REFUSAL PROVIDE COASTAL PATROL BOATS (REF C),
NEGATIVE EXIM-BANK DECISION ON PROPOSED GUINEAN
PURCHASE OF BOEING 737 AND OTHER DISAPPOINTMENTS.

D. THE VISIT TO US WOULD GIVE RECOGNITION TO
SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN GUINEAN HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION AND PROVIDE IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS
UPON HIM DEPTH OF US COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND
TO URGE HIM TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS. GIVEN GENERAL
AFRICAN SATISFACTION OVER TOURE'S NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL/IVORY COAST AND EMERGENCE
FROM SELF-IMPOSED ISOLATION, HIS VISIT TO THE US
SHOULD NOT DISTURB NEIROBORING COUNTRIES.

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E. VISIT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
TO GIVE TOURE TOP-LEVEL REVIEW OF US VIEWS AND POLICIES
RE SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA

AND OPEN WAY TO DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITIES FOR
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND ELIMINATION
OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA.

F. WITH REGARD TO LIKELY QUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE,

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PL-480 CONTINUES TO BE A GREATLY APPRECIATED FORM OF AID, GOG IS INTERESTED IN COOPERATIVE LINKS WITH US EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, US INVESTMENT IS ALREADY MAKING A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEA'S ECONOMY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION, AND THERE ARE INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT, USAID EXPOSURE IS VERY MODEST, COULD DO WITH SOME REASONABLE ACCELERATION, AND COULD USEFULLY BE SUPPLEMENTED AT MODEST EXPENSE BY TWO OR THREE ACCELERATED IMPACT

PROJECTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL AREA, WHICH IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO TOURE. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO MAKE CLEAR IN ADVANCE LIMITED NATURE OF USG ASSISTANCE THAT COULD BE EXPECTED TO EMERGE FROM US VISIT. TOURE WOULD PROBABLY BE AS INTERESTED IN POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE OF VISIT AS HE WOULD IN MATERIAL ASSISTANCE.

4. CONCLUSIONS: IN SUM, THERE HAS BEEN A VAST CHANGE IN SEKOU TOURE'S OUTLOOK, POLICIES AND ACTIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR. A VISIT TO THE US COULD HELP CONSOLIDATE

THIS CHANGE AND ENCOURAGE CONTINUED MOVEMENT IN
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CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTIONS. FROM OUR OPTIC IT APPEARS TOURE MAY BE ABLE RECAPTURE MUCH OF HIS OLD LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA; THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF A US VISIT COULD HAVE USEFUL REPERCUSSIONS ON A BROADER SCALE. WE BELIEVE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF TOURE'S VISIT TO THE US DESERVE SERIOUS WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: AS IT APPEARS LIKELY THIS SUBJECT MAY BE RAISED AGAIN HERE IN NEAR FUTURE, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT HAS TO OFFER. CROSBY

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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